to combine in. its elements purity, blessedness, communion with God. but indefinitely varied aid modified —as all religious ideas are varied and modified—by different forms of worship, bv different modes of thought, by different habits of life. Accordingly, some have looked for their heaven above the clouds, environed with all the splendour of the stars ; others in the central depths of the earth and the shady groves of Elysium, where happy spirits wander and hold delighted converse. According to some, heaven is a place of sensuous delights of a grosser or more refined species ; while some have thought of the islands of the blest in some remote and untra versed ocean, where the spirits of the just shall con-ore^ate and free from all that embittered their previous life, enjoy its full fruition. The planets in succession have been, as it were, seized upon by others and appropriated for heaven with all their diversities and with all their brilliance, and whatever the wit and fancy of man could devise has been supplied in order to render them more worthy of being the abodes of exalted souls. These latter have sometimes, been pictured as advancing from one world to another until they

reached the throne of the Deity erected in the great central
sin. From there, the Deity is believed to be shedding forth
its moral light and life as well as the beams of material light
upon a surrounding and adoring universe.

The purification by which heaven is obtained has been
similarly diversified. There has been the purgatory in which
souls after death are purified from venial sins and otherwise
rendered fit for heaven after suffering for a time. There
has been the *Hades,* the invisible under-world, the abode-
of the departed, considered as a. parmanent hell by some
and as an intermediate state of purification by others. Again
there is the corrective hell on. which one class has counted,
while another class has believed, as a fit place for the unbelie-
vers. the rejected, the ca3t-away, in a permanent hell. In all
the variations of these conceptions, we see human, nature